

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01 L-03 DODE-00 PC-01 CU-02
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1945

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1627

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, CG, AO

SUBJECT: CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE

REF: A) STATE 035715 B) KINSHASA 878 C) KINSHASA 1163 D) KINSHASA
1421 E) 76 KINSHASA 1773 F) KINSHASA 0728 G) 76 KINSHASA 1874
H) KINSHASA 1625 I) GENEVA 1324

1. DURING A RECENT INSPECTION TRIP TO THE BAS-FLEUVE AREA,
DR. KENNEDY OF USAID AND CITOYEN KALALA TSHIBINDI OF GOZ, OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENCY, OBSERVED THOUSANDS OF CABINDAN REFUGEES IN
OBVIOUS NEED OF FOOD AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. (DETAILS CONTAINED
IN REF H). REFUGEE LEADERS AND ZAIRIAN ZONE AND COLLECTIVITE
OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT NO ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY
THE UNHCR TO CABINDAN REFUGEES IN THE TSHELA AREA. THIS APPEARS
TO BE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO NOEL'S ASSERTION THAT HE
IS TAKING "ALL NECESSARY MEASURES CONCERNING REFUGEES." (REF I.)

2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, GOZ OFFICIALS AT THE PRESIDENCY AND
AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE INDICATED DISSATIS-
FACTION WITH NOEL'S PERFORMANCE. NOEL'S PUBLIC COMMENT ON CO-
OPERATION WITH THE GOZ (REF C) CAN BE SEEN THEREFORE AS AN
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ATTEMPT TO LAY THE GROUND-WORK FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE OF HIS POSITION.
POLITICALLY, NOEL IS SAVVY; HE IS AWARE THAT BY CITING THE
BRAZZAVILLE ACCORDS, HE WOULD APPEAR TO BE ACCOMMODATING THE
POLITICAL INTERESTS OF BOTH THE GOZ AND THE PRA. AS DEPARTMENT
AWARE, THE BRAZZAVILLE ACCORDS DID STATE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES
WOULD FACILITATE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES WITH THE
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNHCR (REF E). THIS, OF COURSE, DOES NOT

RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ASSISTING THE REFUGEES WHO DO NOT WISH
TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND.

3. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, PRESIDENCY COUNSELOR
BUKASSA NOTED THAT WHILE THE UNHCR SEEMS TO PREFER REPATRIATION
AND THE GOZ IS PREPARED TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR
FORMER HOMES, THE GOZ IS NOT FORCING REPATRIATION. BUKASSA INTIMA-
TED (AND DR. KENNEDY'S REPORT CONFIRMS) THAT THE GOZ HAS,
IN FACT, MOVED CABINDAN REFUGEES BACK FROM THE BORDER TO PROTECT
THEM FROM FAPLS/CUBAN RAIDS. THIS, OF COURSE, OFFERS NO
GUARANTEE THAT ZAIRIAN POLICY WILL NOT CHANGE. MOBUTU HAS
RECENTLY INDICATED IMPATIENCE WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
AND HAS ARRESTED FLEC LEADERS. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THE GOZ HAS
EVINced NO HOSTILITY TOWARD THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES; AND LOCAL
ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED CONCERN THAT ADEQUATE RELIEF
ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED TO THEM.
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Message Attributes

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